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ORGANIZATIONS

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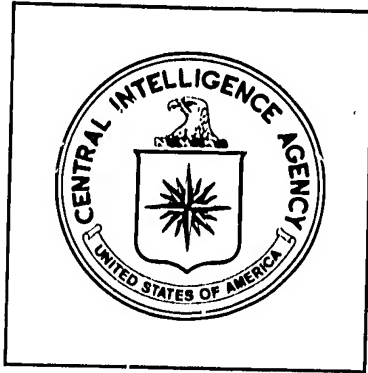
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STAFF NOTES:

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WESTERN EUROPE - [REDACTED] - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Threat to Belgian Government May Subside

Prime Minister Tindemans may have succeeded in keeping the latest linguistic squabble out of parliament and thus prevented a government crisis.

At issue is the establishment of separate windows for French and Dutch-speakers doing business at city hall in the Brussels borough of Schaerbeek. A parliamentary committee was to have decided yesterday whether to introduce it on the floor, but Tindemans may have averted this by referring the question to the Council of State. Tindemans said that in the meantime, his government would work directly with provincial governors to block any local attempts to establish separate facilities for the two linguistic groups.

Tindemans' prompt action will dampen the explosive linguistic issue for the time being. A demonstration, which has been banned but is still scheduled to be held in Schaerbeek tomorrow, could revive the issue. Unless the Dutch-speaking militants call off the rally, protesters may clash with police and thereby force the issue to the floor next week. On the bright side, however, the petroleum strike that began earlier this week has been settled and deliveries are returning to normal.
(Confidential)

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Attacks by Portuguese Leftists Disrupt
Political Parties

Attacks by extreme leftists have left Portugal's conservative political parties in almost total disarray. Non-communist parties of the left are also increasingly discouraged by the actions of the military and the extremist violence.

While the roundup of military officers and civilians alleged to have been involved in the coup attempt continued yesterday, President Costa Gomes told the nation in a televised speech that the core of opposition to the new political-social conditions still exists. He said a thorough investigation now under way will uncover "the enemy of the people and the Armed Forces Movement."

The conservative Christian Democratic and the Social Democratic Center parties may be outlawed. Yesterday, a Christian Democratic leader was accused of complicity in the coup attempted Tuesday; many of the party's leaders are reported to have fled to Spain.

The hopes of the moderate leftist parties to recoup some of their losses by taking part in the constituent assembly election next month appear increasingly futile, in view of the increasing dominance of leftists in the government and the growing extremist violence. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] has confided to [REDACTED] that the effect of giving broader powers to the military is to push the

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political parties outside the power spectrum. He said the parties now have to determine whether it is worthwhile to participate in the political process. Prime Minister Goncalves reportedly has said the Portuguese Democratic Movement, a communist front, will join the government when the cabinet is shuffled.

Several members of Portugal's leading banking and industrial families have been arrested. Prominent businessmen have in recent months been detained for short periods, but the arrests this time may presage more serious intervention in the private sector. The most extreme of the far left parties is reportedly planning terrorist actions against wealthy Portuguese and foreign diplomats.

It is reliably reported that former president General Antonio de Spinola, who fled to Spain after the abortive coup, will now go to Brazil. His departure will be welcomed by Madrid, which has been embarrassed by his presence and has sought to remain uninvolved in Portugal's present problems. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/Background Use Only)

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NATO Members Ponder How to Explain
CSCE

Now that an early conclusion to the European security conference seems possible, the Western participants have begun to ponder the problem of how to explain the results of the conference to the public.

At a meeting of NATO's political committee this week, representatives reacted favorably to the US suggestion that basic guidance be drawn up for use by Western states in explaining CSCE. The US representative suggested that, whatever the intrinsic importance of the conference, it did not represent the capstone of detente. Western participants should therefore emphasize that their defense effort should not falter and that other detente negotiations, such as MBFR, should be diligently pursued. The US representative recommended that a draft of basic CSCE guidance be ready for discussion by the foreign ministers at the NATO ministerial session scheduled for the end of May.

The Western participants are also discussing the possibility of holding a meeting of Western heads of government prior to the East-West summit that will probably conclude the security conference. Although the reporting is somewhat contradictory, EC leaders apparently came close to rejecting such an idea at their meeting in Dublin this week. Most thought that, while the West would have to assess CSCE results, it would be better to do so in a standard EC or NATO forum than in a dramatic summit session. Some, no doubt including the French,

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thought that a separate Western summit would equate the West with the Eastern bloc (which intends to stage a European communist party conference around the time of CSCE's conclusion) and thus make CSCE appear to be a bloc-to-bloc confrontation.

The West Europeans have long been concerned about how public opinion might view the outcome of CSCE. Earlier, they feared that CSCE might produce so much "detente euphoria" that Western governments would find it difficult to maintain public support for defense spending. More recently, as it appeared increasingly likely that the results of CSCE might lean in the direction of Soviet desires, the West Europeans have begun to worry about how to highlight Western gains at the conference in order to justify Western participation. (Confidential No Foreign Dissem)

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EC "European Council" Meets in Dublin

This week's meeting of the nine EC leaders was largely devoted to resolving Britain's remaining renegotiation demands, but the Dublin sessions also inaugurated a new format that may, on balance, enhance the usefulness of future top-level community consultations. The so-called European Council innovation has the effect of emphasizing the importance of personality, however, and this may not always be a blessing for smooth Community functioning.

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Little time was available to discuss other agenda items at Dublin, although policies regarding such topics as the CSCE and energy were taken up. The leaders established a special high-level energy committee to handle community preparations for the conference of energy producers and consumers called by President Giscard and to coordinate community views on energy directly with the International Energy Agency. France is not a member of the international agency but the creation of this new body will involve Paris more closely than ever in the agency's work because the committee will be composed of the same officials that attend meetings of the international agency. The new format for top-level meetings also demonstrates the need for bodies that can deal with problems within the jurisdiction of the

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EC itself and those within the province of the Nine. This necessary "pragmatism" seems likely to work at the expense of existing Community institutions.

In the past, the annual EC summits generated widespread publicity and consequent unrealistic expectations for major decisions. The Nine hope that by holding such get-togethers more frequently, and by innovations such as not issuing a communiqué and stricter efforts to maintain secrecy, cooperation will be enhanced and Community decisions facilitated. Most of the participants in Dublin, in fact, have expressed general satisfaction with the new procedures.

There are, however, obvious drawbacks. For example, there will probably be a tendency to have the EC Council buck up to the heads of government less-than-critical matters which should have been settled--or at least better defined for decision--at the Council level. A case in point was the

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